



# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: March 21-22, 2016

SUBJECT: Update—Demonstration of Professional Learning Network		Item Number: 3.4	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Success Center for California Community Colleges	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Paul Steenhausen, Executive Director	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

**ISSUE:** The California Community Colleges are creating an online clearinghouse (portal) known as the Professional Learning Network—a “one-stop site” of effective practices, trainings, and other resources for faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees. The Board was shown a demonstration of the Professional Learning Network—then in its early stage of development—at the May 2015 board meeting. For this item, the Board will receive an update on the project, which will include a demonstration of its features and functionalities.

**BACKGROUND:** In January 2011, the CCC Board of Governors initiated a 12-month strategic planning process to identify a course of action for improving student outcomes. To develop an improvement plan, the Board formed the Student Success Task Force, which consisted of 21 members from inside and outside the CCC system. In December 2011, the task force released a comprehensive report containing 22 recommendations designed to foster greater student success. Key areas of emphasis in the report included strengthening student support services for students and rethinking basic skills education.

The task force stressed the importance of professional development in supporting implementation of these reforms and improving student outcomes. As the task force emphasized, “To accomplish major changes in the California Community Colleges, professional development must be at the center of this discussion.” *(Background cont’d)*

**RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for information and discussion.

***(Background cont'd)***

Specifically, the task force recommended that community colleges create a system of focused and sustained opportunities for all college personnel to learn from each other and build their skills. The task force further recommended that the Chancellor's Office "explore the use of myriad approaches to providing professional development, including . . . the use of technology."

In January 2012, the Board unanimously endorsed the 22 task force recommendations, adopting them as a guiding policy framework for the CCC system and eventually embedding the recommendations into the System Strategic Plan. Since that time, the Chancellor's Office has been working with the colleges to implement each of the recommendations.

To help implement the task force and Board's collective vision for professional development, the Chancellor's Office formed a 30-member "Student Success Initiative Professional Development Committee" in fall 2012. The charge of the committee was to develop ideas and strategies to "revitalize and re-envision" professional development in the CCC system. In September 2013, the committee presented its findings and recommendations to the Board. A key recommendation from the committee was for the Chancellor's Office to create a "virtual professional development resource center"—a "one-stop shop" for colleges and their employees to access effective practices, trainings, and other resources.

In 2014, the system's Online Education Initiative provided seed monies to Telecommunications and Technology Infrastructure Program South (TTIP South), which is administered by Palomar College, to oversee the technical build-out of the portal. To solicit input on that development effort, in November 2014, the Chancellor's Office—in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, CCC Success Network (3CSN), California Community College Council for Staff and Organizational Development (4C/SD), @ONE, Online Education Initiative, and Success Center for CCC—held six regional summits on the project. The purpose of the summits was to obtain input on desired features, functionalities, and content for the Professional Learning Network (known at the time by its working title, the "online clearinghouse"). These regional summits were attended by more than 500 faculty, staff, and administrators. Summit participants identified a number of desired features for the portal, including:

- a highly searchable listing of effective practices for the system
- a library of self-paced video-based trainings
- a discussion board that allows personnel to communicate across colleges and program areas
- a "speakers bureau" (a listing of experts who are available to speak at conferences)
- a system-wide events calendar

Summit participants suggested many topics and issues to include in the portal, such as:

- evidence-based practices on basic skills education, career technical education, and other programs
- topics related to accreditation (including student learning outcomes and integrated planning)

- new employee orientation and training
- how to create robust professional development programs on campus

In April 2015, the Chancellor’s Office, Academic Senate, and other project partners held a webinar to solicit input from faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees who were unable to attend a regional summit. In May 2015, Blaine Morrow of TTIP South and Paul Steenhausen of the Success Center provided a demonstration of the beta site to the Board.

The 2014-15 state budget package created a new CCC program known as the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative. This initiative, which is led by the Chancellor’s Office, is designed to help colleges improve student success rates and address accreditation, fiscal, and other issues. The initiative’s advisory committee and professional development workgroup members have provided extensive guidance and feedback on development of the Professional Learning Network, which is intended to supplement the many in-person workshops and other CCC events held throughout the year. The *2015-16 Budget Act* provides ongoing funding for the Professional Learning Network as part of the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative.

The portal had a “soft launch” in December 2015 and will be tested for compliance with accessibility guidelines and requirements. An official launch is scheduled for Spring 2016.